

Although the Communists give 10 million as the number of Moslems in China, most experts believe it to be nearly five times that figure. The regime is following a double-sided "dialectical" policy with respect to this important minority. On one front it moves to wipe out Islam as a religion and to destroy the separate identity of the Moslems as a group. Along that line it propagandizes against Mohammedan doctrine, compels the Moslems to eat pork, resettles Mos-

Abroad

lems in distant localities, and at a recently stepped-up rate is closing down mosques and Moslem religious schools. On the second front it uses Communized Moslems—organized in a Chinese Islamic Association under Burhan Sahidi—as a weapon to penetrate the Moslems of Africa and Asia. This year, as regularly for some years past, a large Chinese group has made the pilgrimage to Mecca, where they are able to mingle freely with tens of thousands of Moslems from scores of countries.

OSLO

Lonely Whales

Whaling, perhaps the world's most romantic industry, has come close to the end of the road. With the new equipment introduced in the past two decades, the major whaling nations—Norway, Britain, Russia, Japan and the Netherlands—have nearly cleaned out the new whaling areas in the Antarctic, as they did in the Arctic, the North Atlantic and the South Atlantic before this. The prized blue whale, largest of all mammals, is already down to a point where extinction is virtually certain, unless it is totally protected for ten or more years. The smaller fin whale, of which 19,000 were caught this past season, has reached a point where the catch must be reduced to 7,000 yearly merely in order to maintain present numbers; and to 2,000 or so if any increase is to be hoped for. This is a case where protective action can be taken only through the governments concerned; and so far these have never been able to reach workable agreements. Russia in particular, using her very advanced whaling fleet for intelligence and experimental as well as industrial purposes, shies away from any objectively inspected understanding, much as in the test-ban negotiations.

LONDON

Deep River

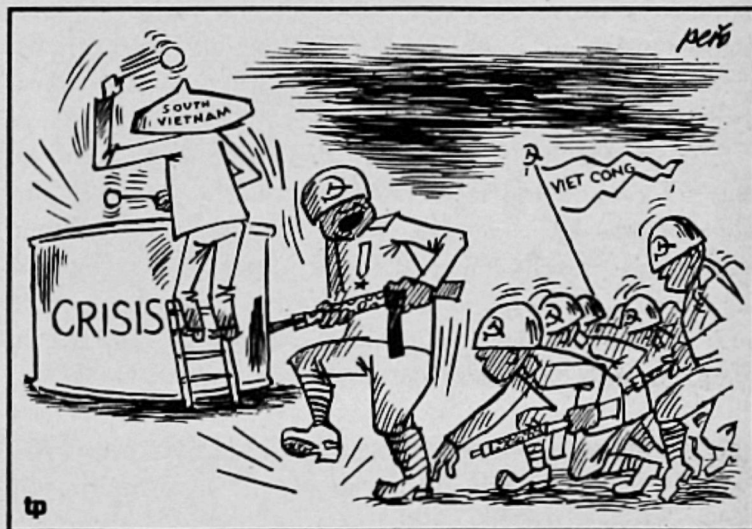
The British press indicates that there may be considerably more mystery about Paul Robeson's journey behind the Iron Curtain than was suggested in the American. For some while it had been rumored in Britain—where Robeson has been living—that he had broken with Moscow because of disillusion on realizing that there is racial prejudice in the Soviet Union. He is supposed, perhaps as a result of that compounding disillusion, to have suffered "a breakdown." The *Sunday Telegraph* of August 25

stated he had been "smuggled" out of England, presumably by Soviet agents or under Soviet pressure, to forestall a political scandal harmful to Moscow. Though this has not been confirmed, Robeson did travel to East Germany incommunicado. His formidable wife did not permit reporters on the train to see or talk with him. After his arrival in Communist territory, the East German press began putting out alleged statements by him of the usual loyal-Communist type. Paul Robeson has always taken care of his own public relations, and his friends, and trained observers of his conduct, are suspicious of the new mode.

VALLETTA, MALTA

Freedom Ahead

In May 1964, Malta will become an independent and sovereign state. Like other proper new nations, it will have an enormous governmental deficit, a virtually insoluble internal political conflict, a total lack of an economic base, too little food, and a vote equal to the United States' in the United Nations. Malta will have the special distinction of being the smallest of all nations to date in both area (120 sq. miles) and population (330,000), with the highest population density (2,750 per sq. mile). It can raise only about 25 per cent of its food needs. For centuries its economy has been based on its position as a key strategic base, with a huge shipyard and other works servicing its splendid harbor and the fleet of the power that controlled



Tarantel Press

"We can stop tiptoeing. They won't hear us anyway!"

it (Britain since taking over from France in 1814). Its strategic function is now obsolescent, and the yards largely shut down. The Catholic hierarchy which has traditionally run Maltese affairs is locked in bitter battle with the rising Labor party that draws for support on the skilled—but inevitably underemployed and increasingly radical—workers. With a language of its own and some fascinating monuments, buildings and customs, great hopes are being placed on the development of tourism. But subsidies from the Imperialist Oppressor will have to carry the load for a long time to come.

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